

83 Newgate Road  
East Granby, CT 06026

March 1, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

**We oppose HB 5263**, An Act Concerning the Processing of Rabbits for Consumption, and we vote. This is an important issue to us. We have spent our adult lives volunteering for animal rescues, especially rabbit rescue organizations. We do not want our tax dollars used to promote the killing of rabbits.

Rabbits are wonderful and popular household pets. We and many of our friends have had rabbits as house pets for decades. They are spayed or neutered, socialized and litterbox trained.

Over the past few decades, the public has made companies aware that rabbit sales in pet stores, clothing made of rabbit fur, and consumer products tested on animals, including rabbits, are not wanted and will not be supported with our dollars. Many cosmetic companies have ended the cruel practice of testing products on animals (including rabbits): their products are labeled "cruelty-free" with a leaping bunny logo. This year, Saint Laurent and Brioni joined the many clothing designers who are no longer using fur, their CEO stating the world "has changed."

In 2015, Whole Foods tried to sell rabbit meat but customers rejected the product and their experiment was quickly discontinued.

In addition, our vet has alerted us to Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2), a highly transmissible and fatal disease for wild and domestic rabbits that is spreading across the U.S. ([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf)). This proposed Act would likely exacerbate the spread of the disease.

Connecticut's Department of Agriculture should promote plant-based markets, including expansion and innovation of plant-based proteins--better for the environment and better for rabbits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen & Bob Ravens-Seger  
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